



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Transmission Structure Insulator Replacement on the HVRMED #2

Program or Field Office: Western Area Power Administration - Desert Southwest Region

Location(s) (City/County/State): Near Boulder City, NV

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration will be conducting transmission structure insulator replacement on the HVRMED #2. The work will be from structure 0-1 to 9N4. This will entail the use of a utility bucket (AH 100) truck only or climbing the structure. No ground disturbance is planned. This work is schedule to take place from mid-May 2016 until June 30, 2016.

Special Conditions:

See Attached Sheet for Special Conditions to be carried out for this project.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B1.3 - Routine maintenance

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

James M. Maut

Date Determined:

4.28.16

Special Conditions

1. Prior to work, a desert tortoise awareness program shall be presented to all personnel who will be onsite, including but not limited to Western staff, contractors, contractors' employees, supervisors, inspectors, and subcontractors. This program will contain information concerning the biology and distribution of the desert tortoise and other sensitive species, their legal status and occurrence in the project area; the definition of "take" and associated penalties; the terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion including speed limits [File number 84320-2015-F-0120]; the means and responsibilities by which workers can help facilitate protection of desert tortoise; and reporting procedures to be implemented in case of desert tortoise encounters or non-compliance with the Biological Opinion. All supervisors and field personnel will have on file a signed agreement that they have completed tortoise training, and understood and agreed to the terms of the Biological Opinion. SOPs and applicable PCMs will be written into contracts for O&M work and contractors will be held responsible for compliance.
2. A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-work survey for Mojave desert tortoise. The biologist shall survey all work areas, including staging/laydown areas and access routes. Tortoise burrows and other sensitive features identified during the pre-construction survey shall be flagged and monitored. If tortoises are found in the work area, activities will be modified to avoid injury or harm.
3. Workers shall check underneath vehicles and equipment if stopped or parked in areas accessible by desert tortoise. All project activities will cease in any area where a tortoise is discovered until the tortoise has left the area of its own volition.
4. Vehicle traffic will be restricted to designated access routes and the immediate vicinity of O&M sites. Vehicle speeds will not exceed 25 mph on access and maintenance roads and 20 mph on unimproved access routes. Vehicles and equipment will be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas, to the maximum extent feasible.
5. Workers will remove food-related trash from the work site in closed containers for disposal each day and will not deliberately or inadvertently feed wildlife.
6. No pets (except service animals) will be permitted at work sites.
7. Nighttime O&M activities will be minimized to emergency situations. Lights in emergency situations will be directed to the minimum area needed to illuminate work sites.
8. If there is a desert tortoise mortality or injury that occurs during this work, Western's designated point of contact [Tim Langer, 720-962-7275 (office), 720-483-0754 (cell), [langer@wapa.gov](mailto: langer@wapa.gov)] will be contacted immediately for further instruction.
9. All personnel on-site will document desert tortoise encounters and the Western project supervisor will submit a report to Western's designated point of contact [Tim Langer, 720-962-7275 (office), 720-483-0754 (cell), [langer@wapa.gov](mailto: langer@wapa.gov)] within 30 days after completion of work.

